



Defending against Ransomware Attacks with Risk-Based Vulnerability Management

Chris Jensen

Public Sector Business Development



Ransomware



Q All

News

Images

Videos

Books

More

Settings

Tools

About 5,730,000 results (0.37 seconds)

ProPublica

The Ransomware Superhero of Normal, Illinois

Thanks to Michael Gillespie, an obscure programmer at a Nerds on Call repair store, hundreds of thousands of ransomware victims have ...
2 days ago



Las Cruces Sun-News

Ransomware hits Las Cruces school servers, prompts shutdown

This story was updated at 2:43 p.m.. LAS CRUCES - A ransomware attack prompted a shutdown of computers and internet servers across Las ...
18 hours ago



Insurance Journal

Ransomware Attacks Rise 37% in Q3, Targeting IT Vendors, Their Clients: Beazley

Ransomware attacks increased by 37% during the third quarter of 2019, compared to Q2, as cyber criminals target both IT vendors and their ...
23 hours ago



13 WMAZ.com

Macon Water Authority online services hit with ransomware attack

MACON, Ga. — The Macon Water Authority says their servers are recovering after a ransomware attack that happened Sunday. According to a



SANS

NewsBites

Annotated News Update from the Leader in
Training, Certification and Research

October 29, 2019

Vol. 21, Num. 085

Top of The News

- Insurance Companies See Increasing Numbers of Ransomware Claims
- Johannesburg City Data Held for Ransom
- St. Louis Healthcare and Social Services Provider Struggling with Ransomware Attack

Cyber

[SANS C](#)

Washin

[SANS /](#)



PREVENTION VS. CURE

- **Complete ransomware protection is multi-phased:**
 - Preventing attacks
 - Backing up data to minimize damage from an attack
 - Building in resiliency to recover quickly from an attack
- This briefing focuses on prevention



DEFENDING YOUR NETWORK “HOME”

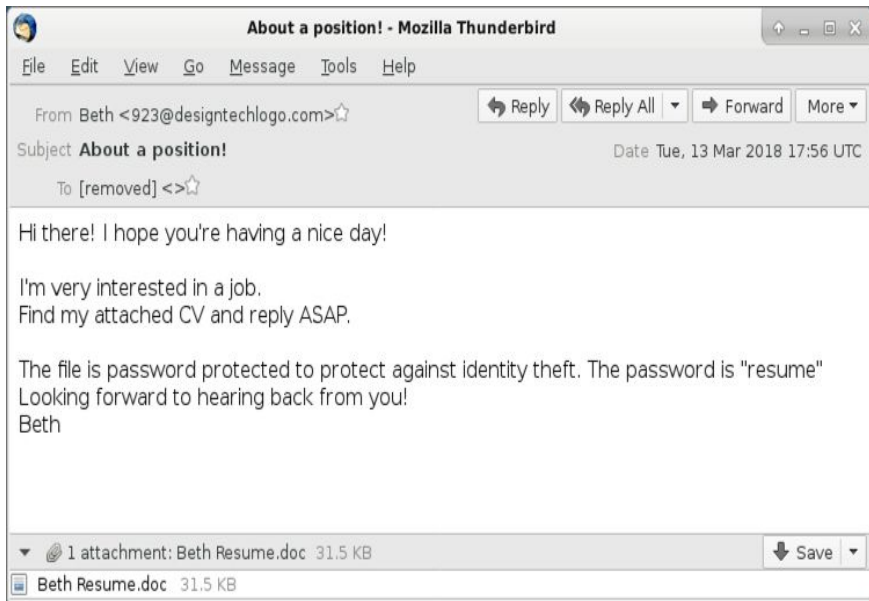
- Hackers are not specifically targeting you; they are looking for easy targets
- Local governments are appealing targets in general – lots of valuable PII, but limited budgets and resources
- It's a big neighborhood (over 75,000 local government entities in the US)
- Be the hard target; send hackers to a softer target down the street



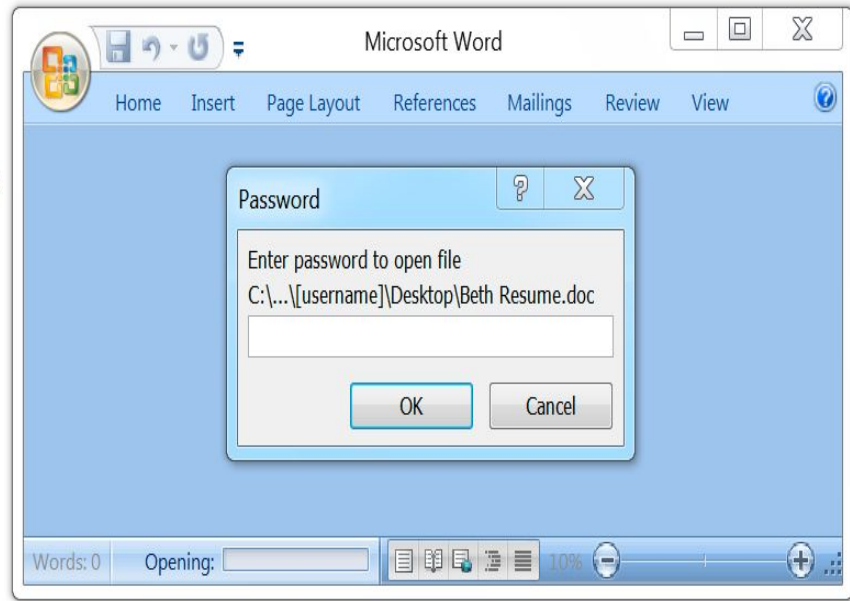
Ransomware Infection Techniques



Malicious Emails – Opening the Door



Beth
Resume.doc





Bruteforce – Exploiting weak locks



Software Vulnerabilities

**—
Breaking In**

DARKReading

9/26/19

Ransomware Hits Multiple, Older Vulnerabilities

Ransomware attacks are taking advantage of vulnerabilities that are older and less severe, a new report finds.

Ransomware attacks are taking advantage of vulnerabilities that might have gone unnoticed by security teams, with more than half of exploited vulnerabilities having a CVSS v2 score less than 8.

This 2019 report found that **35% of the vulnerabilities exploited in ransomware attacks were more than 3 years old.**

Source: <https://www.darkreading.com/vulnerabilities---threats/ransomware-hits-multiple-older-vulnerabilities-/d/d-id/1335930>

Yesterday's vulnerability management isn't good enough



Limited Visibility



Vulnerability Overload



Poor Communication of Risk

Upgrade to Risk-based Vulnerability Management

- See the full attack service
- Eliminate vulnerability overload
- Measure risk, not vulnerabilities

Risk-Based Vulnerability Management

Risk-Based Vulnerability Management (RBVM) is a **process** that uses machine learning analytics to correlate vulnerability severity, threat actor activity and asset criticality **to identify and manage issues posing the greatest risk.**

From **Vulnerability Management** to **Risk Based VM**

TRADITIONAL VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT



People Powered



Focused on
compliance



Adhoc & lightweight
assessments



Prioritization based
on technical factors

Answers the questions:

- What assets do we have?
- Where are we exposed?

RISK BASED VULNERABILITY MANAGEMENT



Powered by
Prediction



Focused on risk
reduction



Continuous in-depth
assessment of the
converged attack surface



Prioritization based on
threats and business
impact

Answers the questions:

- Where should we prioritize based on risk?
- What is the impact if a vulnerability is exploited?
- What should we focus on first?

COMPARING LEGACY VM TO RBVM

VM

RBVM

Compliance Driven



Risk Driven

Infrastructure/IT Focus



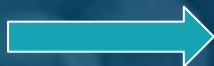
Expansion to Apps & Modern Assets

Static, Point in Time Visibility



Dynamic, Continuous Visibility

Policies & Audit Support



Prioritization & Strategic Decision Support

Reactive



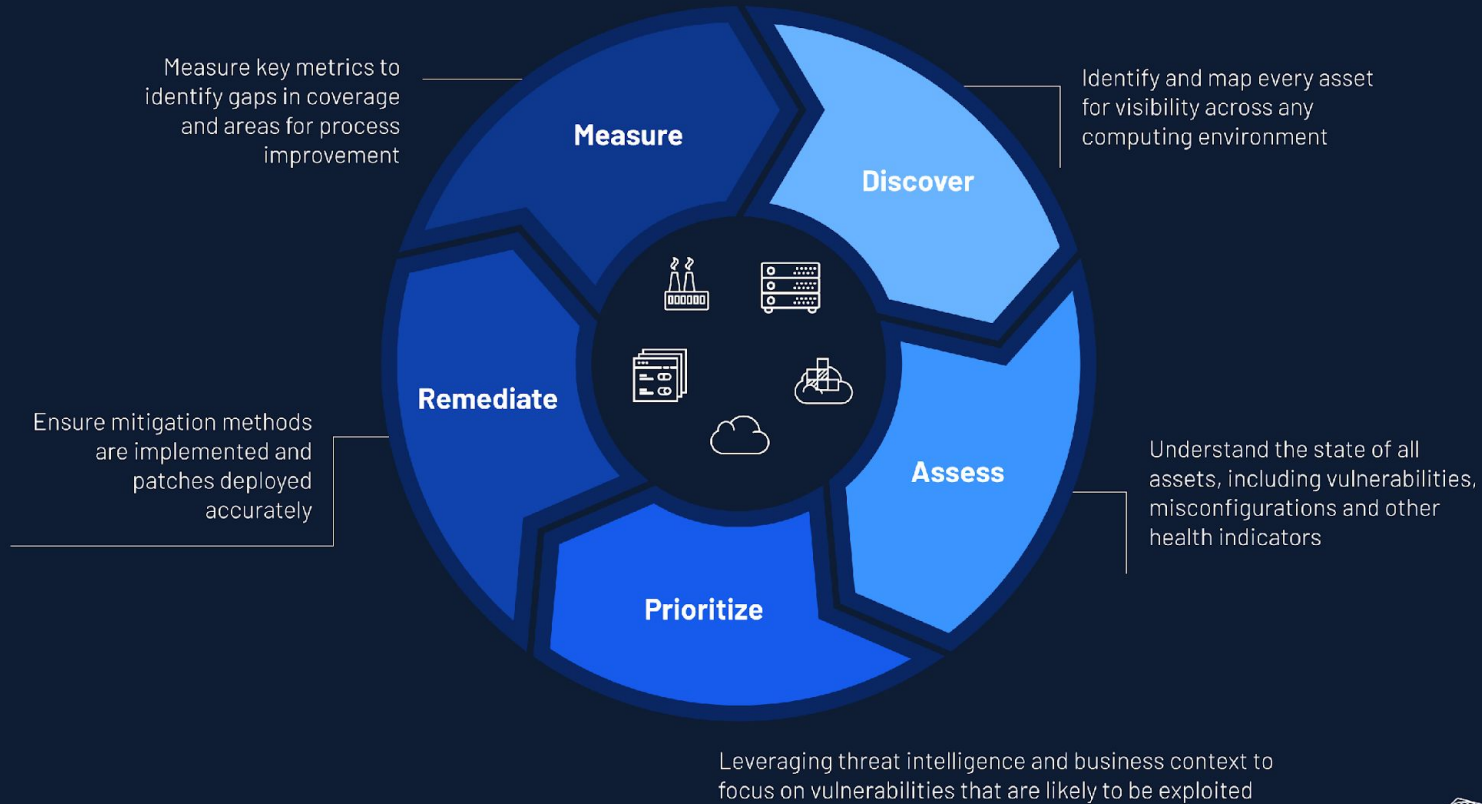
Proactive

Vulnerability Data Only



Vuln Data Correlated w/ Threat Intelligence & Asset Criticality

The Cyber Exposure Lifecycle for Risk Based VM





Prioritize Vulnerabilities and Assets

16500+

VULNERABILITIES DISCLOSED IN 2018

59%

Of vulnerabilities disclosed in 2018
were rated critical or high.

Over 9,500+ Vulnerabilities

15%

Of vulnerabilities disclosed in 2018 were CVSS 9+

2,500 Vulnerabilities

7%

Of vulnerabilities disclosed had
publicly available exploits

Over 1,100 Vulnerabilities

VPR

VULNERABILITY PRIORITY RATING

Leverages supervised machine learning algorithms to calculate the priority of a vulnerability based on the real threat posed.

Key Drivers include



Threat Recency



Threat Intensity



Exploitability



Vulnerability Age



Threat Sources

Elevation of privilege vulnerability in Windows Used in Texas (+ other) 2019 ransomware attacks

Predictive Prioritization analysis for CVE-2018-8453



ACR

ASSET CRITICALITY RATING

Leverages algorithms to calculate the criticality of an asset to focus prioritization efforts.
Key drivers include



Business Purpose



Device Type



Connectivity



Capabilities



Location



3rd Party Data

FOCUS FIRST ON WHAT MATTERS MOST

VPR

VULNERABILITY PRIORITY RATING

Leverage machine learning and **threat** intelligence to prioritize vulnerabilities based on **likelihood** of exploitation

+

ACR

ASSET CRITICALITY RATING

Prioritize assets based on the indicators of business value and **impact**

=

CES

CYBER EXPOSURE SCORE

Objectively measure the Cyber Risk of an asset, business unit or whole organization

FORRESTER®

“Tenable executes on its vision to build the **single-source-of-truth platform for VRM**. Part of Tenable’s strong strategy relies on **translating data to provide business insight** to provide prioritization.”

THE FORRESTER WAVE™

Vulnerability Risk Management

Q4 2019



Thank you